

To that end, it is time to do away with the discriminatory practice of treating mental and physical illnesses as two different categories under insurance. It is time to do away with the barriers to mental health treatment and coverage. It is time to pass mental health parity.

I might remind the Senate, we did pass it once on the 2002 appropriations bill. I happened to be chairman that year on the health appropriations bill. We passed mental health parity in the Senate. It got voiced-voted. No one even objected. Imagine that. We passed it. It went to conference. We kept it in on the Senate side, but we went to conference with the House and we lost it because the House objected to it, by two or three votes. By two or three votes in conference we lost it. We came that close in 2002 to getting mental health parity.

What has happened since? Why have we fallen so far backward? Why hasn't the Senate, since that time, brought it up? As I said, in 2002, we did it. Since 2003, it has not even been brought up. Hopefully, in the next Congress, we will bring it up again, we will pass it again, like we did before.

For those who had the privilege of serving with Paul Wellstone, his spirit is still very much with us. He still inspires us and he still calls us to conscience. Each day that we fail to pass this legislation, as we have for years, we are cheating millions of Americans. Each day that we do not step up to the plate and provide adequate mental health coverage to our citizens, we cheat them from reclaiming their health and well-being, and we starve society of the talent, contributions, and productivity they have to offer. It is a disservice to society to sweep mental illness under the rug and to deny people access and coverage of adequate treatment.

Congress should make the Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act a priority for the 110th Congress. With widespread support and widespread need, passage of this legislation is long overdue.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM C. TORCH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Dr. William C. Torch of Reno, NV, who has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious Tibbetts Award. Significantly, Dr. Torch is the first individual from Nevada to receive this honor.

Each year the U.S. Small Business Administration celebrates the accom-

plishments of a handful of firms, organizations, and individuals nationwide with the Tibbetts Award, the agency's highest recognition for innovative technology. Named for Roland Tibbetts, the father of the Small Business Innovation Research Program, the award honors those who best exemplify the philosophy and doctrine of the SBIR Program. Recipients are selected based on overall business achievements, the economic impact of technological innovations, and demonstration of successful collaboration, among other factors. An individual may only win once in his or her lifetime.

Considering the purpose of the Tibbetts Award, I find it very appropriate Dr. Torch is a recipient. A neurologist specializing in sleep disorders, Dr. Torch has long been an innovative leader in modern, medical research, and social improvement. I have been very impressed by Dr. Torch's unique contributions to the field of medicine and the State of Nevada.

Dr. Torch is perhaps best known as the inventor of EYE-COM, a biosensor that monitors the frequency and speed of the human eye blink. Small enough to hide inside of a pair of glasses, EYE-COM uses an alarm to alert wearers if they begin blinking slower than normal. Already this technology has had profound social effects; it holds great potential for even more social and medical utility in the future.

For example, EYE-COM has improved the therapy and lives of many patients by allowing them to better interact with the world around them. In a 2002 interview, Dr. Torch said he hoped truckers and pilots would use EYE-COM to warn them if they were getting too tired, thereby increasing the safety of our Nation's airspace and highways. Law enforcement officers might also use the device to determine if individuals were driving while impaired. As I speak, researchers across the country are working to cultivate the inherent potential of EYE-COM.

Beyond being a noteworthy inventor, Dr. Torch has significant business achievements to his credit. He is the founder and director of the EYEcom Corporation, the Neurodevelopmental and Neurodiagnostic Center, and Washoe Sleep Disorders Center in Reno, NV, which is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. He is also the founder of Sleep-Management, a Nevada corporation, specializing in jet lag and shift work fatigue research. From 1998 to 2003, he was the director of neurology at Northern Nevada Medical Center.

Dr. Torch, who has been licensed in Nevada since 1979, received his medical degree with distinction in research and a master's degree in neurochemistry from the University of Rochester. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the Brooklyn College. He completed a residency in pediatrics and a residency and fellowship in child and adult neurology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY.

The Tibbetts Award presentation ceremony is on September 26, 2006, in Washington. I wish to congratulate Dr. Torch on this significant achievement and express my confidence that he has great contributions yet to come. I hope that you will join me in recognizing Dr. Torch's significant achievement.

#### NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the 13th annual National Public Lands Day, which will be celebrated on Saturday, September 30. Covering nearly one third of America's total land area, public lands are part of the essence of our country. Today, I am pleased to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers around the Nation who will come together to improve and restore one of America's most valuable assets.

Since its inception in 1994, National Public Lands Day has helped foster communities of volunteers around the Nation. When it started thirteen years ago, there were 700 volunteers working in only a few areas. I am pleased to report that this year nearly 90,000 volunteers will work at over 800 locations to maintain and enhance countless acres of public land for the enjoyment of future generations.

Growing up in Searchlight—whether I was hunting or just hiking in the desert—I developed a great appreciation for public lands. Preserving these lands for both practical and aesthetic purposes is one of my top priorities.

Given that more than 87 percent of the land in Nevada is managed by Federal agencies, I know that I am not alone in recognizing the importance of public land. Nevadans understand that public lands serve many vital purposes in our State; from hiking and hunting to mining and ranching.

I would be remiss if I didn't also take time to recognize and thank the thousands of Federal employees who manage these lands year-round. The Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal land agencies help ensure that the complex patchwork of Federal land management in Nevada serves and adapts to the changing needs of our communities and the public at large. They provide a vital, although rarely reported, service to our Nation.

Through the month of October, volunteers and staff from land management agencies from across Nevada will gather at sites such as the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails Conservation Area, the Desert Tortoise Conservation Management Area, the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Lamoille Canyon, and the Nevada Northern Railway, among others. They will remove litter, construct walking paths, restore fences, post signs, and perform tasks that will improve our public lands for everyone who is fortunate enough to visit them.

Our public lands are part of what makes America a great nation. I voice

my gratitude to everyone who will participate in National Public Lands Day this year.

### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANTHONY P. SEIG

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Sunman. Anthony P. Seig, 19 years old, died on September 9 in Baghdad after being gravely injured when a rocket struck the roof of his barracks the day before. Tony risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Tony enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating East Central High School in St. Leon last year. He had been in Iraq for 2 months when he was killed and would have celebrated his 20th birthday in a few weeks. Tony was remembered by his aunt, Vicki Jenkins, who told a local news outlet, "He's certainly our hero. He was very proud to serve his country. He felt very strongly about serving his country."

Tony was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 118th Military Police Company, Fort Bragg, NC. This brave soldier leaves behind his mother, Linda Seig, and two sisters.

Today, I join Tony's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Tony, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Tony was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Tony will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Tony's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg:

We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Tony's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Anthony P. Seig in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in

which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Tony's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Tony.

### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions and achievements of the Hispanic people of our proud country.

For the nearly 34 years I have represented my home State of New Mexico in the Senate, I have witnessed the growth and success of the Hispanic community in almost every facet of social life. New Mexico's Hispanic community has a long and rich history that dates back centuries. Today, it can claim a long ledger of accomplishments in fields as diverse as science and art, business and sport, medicine and public service.

With respect to the fields of science and military service, I am proud to call attention to the remarkable achievements of Sidney Gutierrez. Born and raised in Albuquerque, Sidney Gutierrez is a distinguished astronaut who has complied over 488 hours in space during his time with NASA. Sidney has been recognized by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in America, and he has also been a recipient of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Award. Prior to his stellar achievements at NASA, Sidney served his country in the U.S. Air Force after he graduated from the Air Force Academy. What is important to note about Sidney's record is that his isn't an aberration. Today, hundreds of Hispanics serve our Nation's high-tech fields—both in the private sector and for the Government as scientists and researchers at our national laboratories.

Today, many Hispanic people from New Mexico continue to serve their country in the armed services. They have stood up as proud Americans and volunteered to protect their families and communities during the global war on terror. We should also take this moment to remember the sacrifices Hispanics have made to preserve the liberties and freedom that make America a beacon of hope to millions around the world. Just as soldiers from New Mexico distinguished themselves in battles at Bataan, Attu, North Africa, Europe, and the Pacific, today men and women in uniform of Hispanic heritage are fighting for their Nation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Our Nation is stronger because of these men and women. They deserve the gratitude of the Nation for their sacrifices.

Hispanic Americans have also been active in other forms of public service. The first Hispanic Congressman in the House of Representatives and the first Hispanic Senator in our Nation's history were from New Mexico. Since it became a State in 1912, New Mexico has been a trailblazer in placing Hispanics into elected office.

The first Hispanic Senator in our Nation's history was a New Mexican by the name of Octaviano Larrazolo. Senator Larrazolo lived a rich life and valued public service above everything else. He was one of the early and important contributors to the constitution of the State of New Mexico and a fearless advocate for statehood. It was no surprise then that the people of New Mexico elected him to serve as their Governor. Throughout his career he was known as an advocate for better education and believed that a strong educational system was the key advancement in our fair and competitive society.

The tradition of Congress celebrating the contributions of Hispanic Americans goes back almost 40 years. In 1968, Congress started by designating a week to celebrate Hispanic heritage. Over the years, we decided to extend the designation to cover a month starting on September 15. The extra time has been a necessary and appropriate change to allow us to recognize the long record of contributions Hispanic Americans have made to our communities and to our Nation. I call on the American people to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the Nation to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

### IT'S TIME TO TALK DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to the efforts of Liz Claiborne, Inc., and Redbook to designate September 21, 2006, It's Time to Talk Day. What they want us and the Nation to talk about is domestic and dating violence, and they have partnered to encourage national dialog on the subject of this pervasive and terrible crime.

We are not the only ones talking about it: talk radio, government officials, domestic violence advocates, businesses, and schools across the Nation are taking time today to focus on the issue that will affect nearly one-third of all women in their lifetime and many men. Bringing the crime of domestic and dating violence to the level of a simple conversation can start a chain reaction that will save a relationship and may, very well, save a life.

Some of you may know that I am especially concerned about teen dating violence, a crime that exists in every community regardless of race, socioeconomic, rural or urban. A young Idaho woman in an abusive dating relationship died 6 years ago. Since that time, I have pushed to include